

House District 37

Cancer Profile



June 2004

Impact of Cancer on your Constituents

In the United States, 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women will develop a life threatening cancer during their lifetime. Most of these cancers are not the result of heredity, but occur because of people's lifestyles. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 1,368,030 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2004. This means over 3,600 new diagnoses each day and 563,700 cancer deaths in the United States in 2004. In South Carolina over 20,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2004 or over 55 new cancer cases diagnosed each day. This is twenty-two times the rate for AIDS in our state. 8,860 South Carolinians will die from cancer in 2004.

Table 1. Actual Cancer Cases in 2000 and Deaths in 2002 for S.C. & House District 37

	South Carolina		House District 37	
	New Cases	Lives Lost	New Cases	Lives Lost
All	17,861	8,319	98	81
Men	9,624	4,538	50	43
Women	8,237	3,781	48	38
White	13,309	6,068	89	72
Af-Am.	4,272	2,216	10	10

As seen in Table 1 there was a total of **98** new cancer cases in 2000 and **81** deaths from cancer during 2002 for this District.

Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life. The following chart shows the percentage of

cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in South Carolina and in this District.

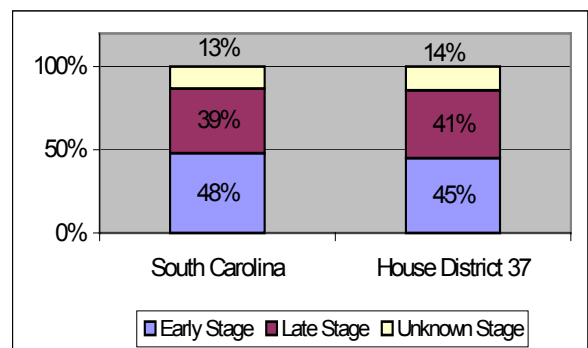


Figure 1. Cancers by Stage of Diagnosis in S.C. and House District 37, 1996-2000

Costs of Cancer to your District

Using 2000 actual cancer cases for this District and estimates from the National Institutes of Health, the overall annual cost of cancer in District 37 for 2000 was **\$14,473,895.58**; **\$4,819,277.11** for direct medical costs (total of all health expenditures), **\$8,449,799.20** for indirect morbidity costs (lost productivity due to illness), and **\$1,204,819.28** for indirect mortality costs (lost productivity due to premature death).

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in South Carolina and South Carolina ranks 17th in the nation for breast cancer mortality. There were **2,710** new female breast cancer cases in 2000 and **627** deaths during 2002 in South Carolina. While District 37 had **19** new

female breast cancer cases in 2000 and **10** breast cancer deaths in 2002. Excellent methods of early detection are available for breast cancer. The SC Best Chance Network (BCN) is a federally funded program that provides breast cancer screening to women with financial barriers. In 2003, they screened **7,199** women.

Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men in South Carolina. Moreover, South Carolina ranks 3rd in the nation for prostate cancer deaths. South Carolina men experienced **2,911** new prostate cancer cases in 2000, and **478** died from the disease in 2002. In District 37 there were **15** new prostate cancer cases in 2000 and **10** deaths from the disease in 2002. The ACS recommends that men with at least a ten-year life expectancy begin prostate cancer screening at age 50 through yearly digital rectal examinations (DRE) and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests.

Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is the 3rd most common cancer in men and women. South Carolina currently ranks 30th in the nation for colorectal cancer deaths. There were **2,079** new colorectal cancer cases in 2000 and **806** colorectal cancer deaths in South Carolina during 2002. In District 37 there were **15** cases in 2000 and **less than 5** colorectal cancer deaths in 2002. Currently there are 5 different screening options for colorectal cancer. It is recommended that both men and women, beginning at age 50, have a yearly fecal occult blood test (FOBT) plus flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years.

Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer is the 2nd most common cancer in South Carolina and currently South Carolina ranks 21st in the nation for lung cancer deaths. In South Carolina there were **2,852** new lung cancer cases diagnosed in

2000 and **2,481** deaths in 2002. This means **21** new cases in 2000 and **28** lung cancer deaths in 2002 in District 37.

Oral Cancer

Oral cancer is the 9th most common cancer in South Carolina. Moreover, South Carolina ranks 2nd in the nation for deaths to oral cancer. South Carolina had **464** new oral cancer cases diagnosed in 2000 and **131** deaths in 2002. District 37 had **less than 5** new cases in 2000 and **less than 5** deaths in 2002 from this preventable cancer.

Cancer Policies

In 2001, the SC legislature appropriated **\$750,000** to match federal dollars for treating breast/cervical cancer cases found through the BCN screening programs. The central cancer registry also requires a state match for the federal funds received. C-Change “Collaborating to Conquer Cancer” (formerly the National Dialogue on Cancer) is an initiative to alert state legislators about opportunities to save lives by passage of cancer control policies.

Resources

American Cancer Society

Nancy Cheney, Director Government Relations- SC
South Atlantic Division
128 Stonemark Lane
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 750-1693

SC Cancer Alliance

Terry Day, MD, Chair, Coordinating Council
Alan Waln, SCCA Coordinator
SC Dept. Health Environmental Control
(803) 898-0754
walna@dhec.sc.gov

SC Central Cancer Registry

Susan Bolick-Aldrich, MSPH, CTR, Director
Catishia Mosley, Graduate Assistant
2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 898-3696
bolicks@dhec.sc.gov



Cases and Deaths between 5 and 9 were rounded to 10 and between 11 and 14 rounded to 15.

District cases and deaths may not add up to District total due to rounding.

Rankings from Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program (www.seer.cancer.gov) SEER*Stat Database: Mortality (1990-2000). Ranking includes all 50 states and Washington DC.